

-means for removing the hydrogen peroxide from the surface of the packaging sheet material,

[characterized in that] said means for removing the hydrogen peroxide from the surface of the packaging sheet material [are] being interposed between said means for applying hydrogen peroxide and said means for irradiating the packaging material with light including at least one UV wavelength between 200nm and 320nm and in that said means for irradiating are arranged only downstream of the means for removing, whereby a residual or trace quantity of hydrogen peroxide absorbed by or located adjacent to any microorganisms present on said packaging sheet material is directly targeted with UV radiation.

Claim 14, line 1, delete "or 13".

Claim 15, line 1, delete "13 or 14,".

REMARKS

The above amendments have been made to remove the multiple dependencies in the claims and to make the amendments to the specification and claims as previously filed by applicant in response to the International Preliminary Examination Report in PCT Appln. No. PCT/EP98/06846. Early and favorable action in connection with this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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